

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06639 01 OF 02 051756Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----127817 051759Z /41

O 051740Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5872
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 06639

EXDIS

USEEC

FOR AMBASSADOR SMITH (S/AS)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: ENRG, US, EEC
SUBJECT: US-EURATOM RENEGOTIATION

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 06552, (B) PARIS 11213 (NOTAL)

1. DANISH PERMREP RIBERHOLDT CALLED ME APRIL 5 TO GIVE ME HIS GLOSS ON APRIL 4 EC COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF US-EURATOM RENEGOTIATION. RIBERHOLDT SAID THAT DE GUIRINGAUD WANTED THE ITEM TAKEN UP ON THE COUNCIL AGENDA WHILE DE GUIRINGAUD WAS STILL PRESENT (HE LEFT AFTER LUNCH TO RETURN TO PARIS).

2. DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN BEGAN DISCUSSION BY NOTING THAT EIGHT DELEGATIONS HAD INDICATED THEIR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED TEXT OF EURATOM RESPONSE TO US NOTE. HE THEN ASKED DE GUIRINGAUD IF THE FRENCH STILL MAINTAINED OBJECTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06639 01 OF 02 051756Z

3. ACCORDING TO RIBERHOLDT, DE GUIRINGAUD GAVE A LONG STATEMENT IN WHICH HE SAID THAT FRANCE "IS NOT IN A POSITION TODAY TO ACCEPT THIS ANSWER" AND, AT THE END, SAID THAT "FRANCE OPPOSES THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ANSWER."

4. ANDERSEN THEN ASKED IF FRANCE OPPOSES THE EC SENDING

THE NOTE TO THE US, TO WHICH DE GUIRINGAUD REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY. IN RESPONSE TO SECOND ANDERSEN QUESTION, DE GUIRINGAUD STATED THAT THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION OF FRANCE PERMITTING ITSELF TO BE OVERRIDDEN BY A MAJORITY VOTE ON THE ISSUE SINCE THE MATTER WAS "TOO FUNDAMENTAL."

5. ANDERSEN CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE SITUATION WHICH THE EC IS IN AND THAT MEMBER STATES SHOULD REFLECT FURTHER ON THE MATTER. ACCORDING TO RIBERHOLDT, HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT SAY THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE PUT ON THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AGENDA FOR APRIL 7-8.

6. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, RIBERHOLDT SAID THAT, WHILE THERE IS A "FAIR POSSIBILITY" THAT "SOMEONE" MAY RAISE THE ISSUE AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING, HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE DANISH PRESIDENCY INTENDS TO BRING IT UP AS A FORMAL AGENDA ITEM. HE AGREED THAT, IF THE DANES DO NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO RAISE IT AND NO ONE ELSE DOES, APRIL 9 WILL COME AND GO WITH NO RESPONSE TO THE US NOTE.

7. A MEMBER OF COMMISSIONER BRUNNER'S CABINET (SIMON) HAS GIVEN US A RATHER DIFFERENT VERSION OF POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS. WHILE HE CONFIRMS THAT DE GUIRINGAUD VETOED USE OF MAJORITY VOTING DURING FORMAL COUNCIL SESSION, SIMON TOLD US THAT, IN FURTHER INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS AFTER SESSION BROKE FOR LUNCH, SEVERAL FOREIGN MINISTERS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BRUNNER'S SUGGESTION THAT COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 06639 01 OF 02 051756Z

SEND TEXT OF NOTE TO U.S. ON ITS OWN AUTHORITY.

ALLEGEDLY, EVEN DE GUIRINGAUD TOLD BRUNNER THAT THERE WERE SOME ADVANTAGES TO SUCH A PROCEDURE WITHOUT RESORT TO FORMAL COUNCIL APPROVAL (OTHER THAN, PERHAPS, "TAKING NOTE" OF COMMISSION'S STATED INTENTION).

8. SIMON SAID THAT BRUNNER IS PREPARED TO PROCEED ALONG THIS APPROACH AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN COPENHAGEN APRIL 7-8. HE RECOGNIZED THAT, IF THIS APPROACH IS ACCEPTED, EVENTUALLY THE COMMISSION WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN A NEGOTIATING MANDATE FROM THE MEMBER STATES AND THAT THEIR AGREEMENT AT THAT TIME MIGHT BE HARD TO COME BY. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE COMMISSION ON AMENDMENTS OF OUR NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WOULD BE PROCEEDING OUTSIDE THE SHADOW OF A NUCLEAR EMBARGO.

9. SIMON FURTHER NOTED THAT BRUNNER'S APPROACH MAY NOT BE NECESSARY IF CORRIDOR REPORTS CIRCULATING YESTERDAY ARE CORRECT THAT GISCARD IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL AT THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT WHICH WOULD PERMIT FORMAL COUNCIL APPROVAL OF RENEGOTIATIONS OF THE U.S./EURATOM AGREEMENTS. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, GISCARD WOULD INSIST UPON SOME SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO HARDEN THE

PROPOSED COMMISSION REPLY TO THE U.S. AND ASK THAT THE
COMMISSION'S AGREEMENT TO RENEGOTIATIONS BE DELIVERED
SOME TIME IN LATE APRIL TO MAKE THE SYMBOLIC POINT THAT
THE EC WILL NOT BE BOUND BY "THE U.S. ARBITRARY AND UNI-
LATERAL DEADLINE OF APRIL 9." THIS VERSION ACCORDS
CLOSELY WITH AMBASSADOR HARTMAN'S REPORT IN REF B, THOUGH

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06639 02 OF 02 051759Z
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O 051752Z APR 78
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AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRUSSELS 06639

EXDIS

USEEC

FOR AMBASSADOR SMITH (S/AS)

RIBERHOLDT MADE NO ALLUSION TO IT IN HIS CONVERSATION.
THIS SCENARIO COULD BE PLAYED OUT BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
REACHING AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE IN COPENHAGEN, REFERRING
IT BACK TO COREPER FOR POLISHING AND PASSAGE AS AN A POINT
AT NEXT AVAILABLE COUNCIL (E.G., EITHER FINANCE COUNCIL
OF APRIL 17 OR SOCIAL OR AG COUNCILS OF APRIL 24).

10. WE WOULD HOPE TO GET MORE ON STATE OF PLAY AND NEXT
MOVES AFTER COPENHAGEN WHEN AMBASSADOR KIRK SEES BRUNNER
APRIL 10. MORRIS

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